

Message Text

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12

ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 EA-11 NEA-14 IO-14 ISO-00 AEC-11

CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 DOTE-00 FMC-04 INR-10 NSAE-00

RSC-01 CG-00 COA-02 DLOS-07 SWF-02 L-03 PM-07 TRSE-00

PA-04 USIA-15 PRS-01 SP-03 FEA-02 ACDA-19 NSC-07

SCI-06 DRC-01 /181 W

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R 030500Z JUN 74

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2278

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION IAEA VIENNA

USMISSION OECD PARIS

AMCONSUL HAMBURG

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E.O. 11652: NA/A

TAGS: ETRN, ENRG, TECH, PBOR, JA

SUBJECT: NUCLEAR MERCHANT SHIPS

REF: STATE 101143

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SUMMARY. ESSENTIALLY ALL ACTIVITY IN JAPAN REGARDING FUTURE OF

NUCLEAR MERCHANT SHIPS IS IN ABEYANCE PENDING RESOLUTION OF PROBLEMS RELATING TO START-UP TEST PROGRAM OF NS MUTSU. DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AGENCY NOW PERSONALLY INVOLVED IN TRYING RESOLVE THESE PROBLEMS AND HOPES REACH AGREEMENT SHORTLY. END SUMMARY.

1. JAPAN'S FIRST NUCLEAR POWERED SHIP, NS MUTSU, WAS COMPLETED IN LATE 1972 AND INITIAL CRITICALITY OF THE REACTOR WAS SCHEDULED TO TAKE PLACE ON OCTOBER 26, 1972, WHICH IS ATOMIC ENERGY DAY IN JAPAN. HOWEVER, LOCAL FISHERMEN'S COOPERATIVE ASSOCIATION OBJECTED TO PROPOSED OPERATION AND STARTUP TEST PROGRAM HAS STILL NOT BEEN INITIATED TODAY ALTHOUGH SHIP READY FOR OVER A YEAR AND ONE-HALF. STA DIRECTOR-GENERAL MORIYAMA HAS RECENTLY INJECTED HIMSELF PERSONALLY INTO NEGOTIATIONS AND HOPES TO BE ABLE AUTHORIZE START-UP TEST PROGRAM IN NEAR FUTURE.

2. AS RESULT OF THIS PROTRACTED DELAY JAPANESE HAVE NOT BEEN ABLE TO TAKE ANY ACTIONS RE SECOND GENERATION NUCLEAR SHIPS AND PREVIOUS STUDIES ARE NOW OBSOLETE. NUCLEAR SHIP COUNCIL OF JAPAN ATOMIC INDUSTRIAL FORUM HAS RECENTLY RESUMED DELIBERATIONS ON FOLLOW-ON NUCLEAR SHIPS AND EXPECTS ISSUE REPORT IN JULY. REPORTEDLY, MINISTRY OF TRANSPORTATION HAS INITIATED STUDY ON SECOND NUCLEAR SHIP; HOWEVER, OFFICIALS OF MINISTRY ADVISE THAT STUDY IS ONLY IN FORMATIVE STAGE AND FULL SCALE EFFORT IS AWAITING RESOLUTION OF NS MUTSU SITUATION.

3. JAPAN NUCLEAR SHIP DEVELOPMENT AGENCY (JNSDA) OFFICIAL ADVISES THAT THEY HAVE NOT INITIATED ANY FORMAL NEGOTIATIONS WITH PORT OFFICIALS RE BERTHING PROCEDURES AT PROSPECTIVE PORTS OF CALL AND DO NOT PLAN TO DO SO UNTIL NS MUTSU START-UP TEST PROGRAM WELL ADVANCED. THIS MATTER FURTHER COMPLICATED AT THIS TIME BY RADIATION MONITORING PROBLEMS THAT HAVE DEVELOPED RE VISITS OF US NUCLEAR-POWERED WARSHIPS.

4. JAPAN HAS NOT SIGNED 1962 BRUSSELS CONVENTION ON LIABILITY OF OPERATORS OF NUCLEAR SHIPS AND HAS NO PLANS TO DO SO ACCORDING GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL. THEY ARE CONCERNED THAT CONVENTION COVERS NUCLEAR WARSHIPS AND WOULD PREFER THAT, AT LEAST INITIALLY, IT BE LIMITED TO MERCHANT SHIPS. ALSO, CONCERNED THAT THERE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ARE SOME DIFFERENCES BETWEEN CONVENTION AND DOMESTIC LIABILITY LEGISLATION WHICH WAS MODIFIED IN OCTOBER 1971 TO ACCOMMODATE EXCHANGE VISITS OF NUCLEAR SHIPS. ACCORDING TO SAME OFFICIAL, JAPAN'S ONLY ACTIVITY THIS AREA AT PRESENT IS TO FOLLOW WHAT WEST GERMANY IS DOING ON IT.
SHOESMITH

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Draft Date: 03 JUN 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
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Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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